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TRANSMITTAL LETTER
(General - Patent Pending)

Docket No.
112857-062

In the Application Of: Shinichi Yoshimura

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Serial No.
09/624,718

Filing Date
July 25, 2000

Examiner
C. Kao

Group Art Unit
2882

Title: **IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD**

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

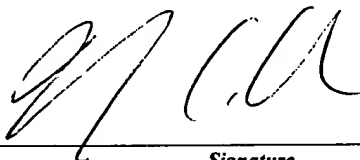
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Response to Office Action (on 4 pages) and return receipt post card

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in the above identified application.

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Dated: **March 6, 2002**

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Shinichi Yoshimura
Appl. No.: 09/624,718
Filed: July 25, 2000
Title: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD
Art Unit: 2882
Examiner: C. Kao
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10/Response
4/9/02
J. Hayes
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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 6, 2001, Applicant respectfully responds as follows:

REMARKS

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and claims 2-5 and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are improper for the reasons set forth below.

Claims 1 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,166,583 ("*Kochi*"). Claims 1 and 6 are both independent claims. Claim 1 relates to an image processing apparatus. The image processing apparatus has an optical area in which a plurality of elements are disposed in a matrix. The image processing apparatus includes light reception means for receiving light introduced into the elements of the optical area and for photoelectrically converting the light. The image processing apparatus of claim 1 further includes arithmetic operation means for arithmetically operating a signal obtained for each of the elements by the photoelectric conversion by the light reception means in accordance with a predetermined rule. Additionally, the image processing apparatus of claim 1 includes outputting means for outputting a result of the arithmetic operation means for each of the elements and a timing adjustment means for adjusting a timing at which the result of the arithmetic operation is to be outputted for each of the plurality of elements from the outputting means. Claim 6 relates to an image processing method for an image processing apparatus substantially similar to claim 1.